

09/980380

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 NOV 2001

**AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 34 - 6 REPLACED SHEETS**  
**APPLICATION NO.: PCT/AU00/00613**

**COMMUNICATION ASSEMBLY**

**INVENTOR:**

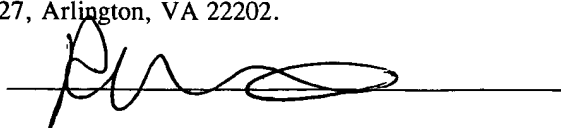
**KINGSLEY GIFFORD**

"Express Mail" Mailing label number EL908289509US

Date of Deposit: November 30, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Services "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Box PCT, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

Reg. No. 32,124, Russell D. Culbertson



**"COMMUNICATION ASSEMBLY"****Technical Field**

This invention relates to a communication assembly.

- 5       The invention has particular but not exclusive application to a communication assembly which is suitable for use as a gift or greeting and which enables a phone call to be made to a selected telephone number.

**Background of Invention**

- 10       It is known for greeting cards to include a phone number which, when phoned by the person receiving the greeting card, plays a message pre-recorded by the person sending the greeting card.

**Summary of Invention**

- 15       The present invention aims to provide an alternative to known communication assemblies and methods of providing a phone-based services.

In one aspect this invention resides broadly in a method of providing a phone-based service including:-

- 20       programming a telephone assembly having means to receive and transmit a message to another telephone, to transmit a message only to one or a plurality of designated other telephones from which the phone-based services are available, and

- 25       providing a programmed telephone assembly to a prospective user of the phone-based services, the telephone assembly being housed in housing means having theme identification means for identifying a theme associated with the phone-based services.

- 30       As used herein the expression "theme identification" is to be construed broadly as referring to the identification of a theme. "Theme" in this context is to be considered in it's normal dictionary meaning as a subject or attribute that members of a group or category have in common. "Theme identification means" is to be construed as meaning any means by which the subject or attribute held in common is/are identified. Exemplary of such means are shape, pattern, ornamentation or configuration. Thus for example, the pattern of a

portion of a musical score identifies the theme "Music" - as does the shape or configuration of a housing shaped as a base clef etc.

It is preferred that the theme identification means is the shape, pattern, ornamentation or configuration of said housing means.

5 It is also preferred that said housing means is star-shaped, said theme is astrology and said programming means have been pre-programmed to connect with one or a plurality of designated telephones numbers providing astrology services, or that said housing means has a sexual shape, said theme is a sexual theme and said programming means have been pre-programmed to connect  
10 with one or a plurality of designated telephones numbers providing sexually related services.

This invention in another aspect resides broadly in a communication assembly including:-

a telephone assembly having means to receive and transmit a message  
15 to another telephone;

programming means for programming said telephone assembly to transmit a message only to one other or a plurality of designated other telephones, and

housing means housing said telephone assembly, said housing means  
20 having theme identification means for identifying a theme associated with said other telephone(s).

It is preferred that the theme identification means is the shape, pattern, ornamentation or configuration of the housing means.

It is also preferred that the communication assembly provides a phone-  
25 based service, said theme identification means identifying a theme associated with said phone-based service.

In one preferred embodiment said programming means have been pre-programmed to connect with one or a plurality of designated telephones numbers providing said phone-based services. Alternatively the programming  
30 means can be a key pad or the like programmable for transmission of a message to said one or a plurality of designated telephones numbers providing said phone-based services.

In one preferred embodiment the telephone assembly includes:-

connection actuating means for actuating telephone connection to the other telephone(s), and

disconnection means for disconnecting telephone connection with the other telephone(s).

5 It is preferred that the telephone assembly cannot receive incoming telephone calls.

In one preferred embodiment the housing means is heart-shaped and the theme is love, ie St Valentine's day. In this embodiment the programming means is preferably a key pad or the like programmable to transmit a message  
10 to only the telephone having the number first indexed on the key pad.

Alternatively the housing means may be star-shaped and the theme is astrology. In this embodiment the programming means have been pre-programmed to connect with one or a plurality of designated telephones numbers providing astrology services.

15 In another embodiment the housing means has a sexual shape and the theme is a sexual theme. In this embodiment the programming means have been pre-programmed to connect with one or a plurality of designated telephones numbers providing sexually related services.

It is preferred that the programming means is a key pad or the like  
20 programmable for transmission of a message to the one or plurality of designated telephones numbers providing the astrology or sexually related services.

### Description of Drawings

25 In order that this invention may be more easily understood and put into practical effect, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings which illustrate a preferred embodiment of the invention, wherein:-

FIG 1 is a schematic block diagram of the communication assembly of the present invention;

30 FIGS 2A and 2B are front and rear plan views of a first embodiment of the invention having a St Valentine's day theme, and

FIGS 3A and 3B are front and rear plan views of a second embodiment of the invention having an astrology theme.

### 3.1

## Description of Preferred Embodiment of Invention

# ART 34 AMDT

As can be seen in FIG 1, communication assembly 10 includes a telephone assembly having means 11 to receive and transmit a message to another telephone, and programming means 16,17 for programming the telephone assembly to transmit a message only to one other or a plurality of designated other telephones.

As seen in FIGS 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B, communication assembly 10 includes housing means housing the telephone assembly. The housing has theme identification means for identifying a theme associated with the other

10

-- THE NEXT PAGE IS PAGE 4 --

telephone(s). The theme identification means is the shape, pattern, ornamentation or configuration of the housing means.

FIGS 2A and 2B illustrate a love heart tele-greeting phone assembly 21. Housing 18 is heart-shaped and the theme is love, for example St Valentine's day. In this embodiment the programming means is a key pad 17 recessed  
5 beneath a hinged cover 18. Key pad 17 is programmable to transmit a message to only the telephone having the number first indexed on the key pad. When programming is complete, operation of key 19 (or a combination of the hash/star keys on a standard telephone digital dial pad) will store the number in  
10 non-erasable non-writeable memory.

Alternatively, FIGS 3A and 3B illustrate an astrology tele-greeting phone assembly 22. Housing 19 star-shaped and the theme is astrology. In this embodiment the programming means have been pre-programmed to connect with one or a plurality of designated telephones numbers providing astrology  
15 services. In this embodiment the programming means is a key pad 17 recessed beneath a hinged cover 18. Key pad 17 is programmable to transmit a message to one or to a number of designated telephones numbers providing the astrology services. When programming is complete operation of key 19 (or a combination of the hash/star keys on a standard telephone digital dial pad) will  
20 store the numbers in non-erasable non-writeable memory.

Other themes are possible in accordance with the invention. Thus in an embodiment not illustrated, the housing means has a sexual shape and the theme is a sexual theme. In this embodiment the programming means have been pre-programmed to connect with one or a plurality of designated  
25 telephones numbers providing sexually related services.

As seen in the drawings, telephone assembly 10 includes connection actuating means 12 for actuating telephone connection to the other telephone(s), and disconnection means 13 for disconnecting telephone connection with the other telephone(s). Telephone assembly 10 also  
30 includes a microphone 14, earpiece 15 and phone cord and jack 20.

The telephone assembly can be designed so as not to be capable of receiving incoming telephone calls.

In use, the love heart tele-greeting phone assembly 21 is purchased as a gift. The purchaser programs his/her own telephone number into the novelty

phone by means of key pad 17, operates button 19 to store the phone number (and only that number) non-eraseably in memory, and gives the novelty greeting phone to another person. The gift thus constitutes a personal greeting enabling the receiver to make phone calls directly to the giver simply by operating connect button 13.

Alternatively in use, the astrology tele-greeting phone assembly 22 (or a sex tele-greeting phone assembly not shown) is purchased as a gift. The gift can be purchased from a store or manufacturer who also provides or is associated with organisations or individuals who provide phone based astrology (or sex-related) services. The phone numbers of such phone-based services are non-eraseably preprogrammed into programming means 16. The purchaser can give the novelty greeting phone to a another person. The gift thus constitutes a personal greeting enabling the receiver to make phone calls directly to preselected phone-based services simply by selecting the chosen service phone number and operating connect button 13.

It will of course be realised that whilst the above has been given by way of an illustrative example of this invention, all such and other modifications and variations hereto, as would be apparent to persons skilled in the art, are deemed to fall within the broad scope and ambit of this invention as is herein set forth.